

# **Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority**

## **- Meeting Minutes -**

**March 22, 2011**

### **Members Present**

Debbie Weiner, Chairman  
Jan Little, Vice Chairman  
Janet Shelton, Recording Secretary  
Linda O'Rourke, Member

### **Guest**

James Bakunas, Prospective Member  
Donna Ferguson, Prospective Member  
Megan Waldschmidt - Prospective Member

### **Staff Present**

Michael Pintar, HRA Coordinator

### **Absent Members**

Tara Dunning, Member  
Stephanie Snyder, Member

### **Call to Order:**

Chairperson Debbie Weiner recognized that a quorum was not present and called the regular meeting of the Springfield Regional Human Rights Authority to order at 6:06 pm on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The meeting was held at Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Center, Springfield, Illinois.

### **Confidentiality Statement:**

The Chairperson read the confidentiality statement which indicates that personally identifiable information will not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

### **Changes in Agenda:**

The Chairperson asked for changes to the agenda. No changes were made to agenda for this meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the January 25, 2011 meeting were reviewed. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke seconded by Janet Shelton members voted to approve and accept the minutes as written.

**Communications:** the Coordinator noted that the prospective members present were eligible to be appointed as citizen members. Ms. Ferguson is a retired special education administrator and Megan Waldschmidt is a student at the University of Illinois,

The Coordinator announced upcoming training opportunities. "How to Use and Access – Training at the Prairie Health Conf on May 4, 2011. A free Teleconference offered by the Alzheimer's Association on April 4<sup>th</sup> and Aging with Developmental Disabilities conf in St. Louis on May 16<sup>th</sup>. A webinar from the Illinois State Library – Learn how to research information.

Mike updated us on an open case regarding hand held play stations and this complaint will be added to the current case we will be reviewing tonight.

**New Business:** Cases for consideration

11-050-9013 – A consumer wants to have an occasional beer. Previous Physician said okay new psychiatric says no, possibly based on his personal beliefs which oppose the use of liquor. The consumer's medications do not preclude the use of alcohol. The guardian was instructed to and asked that the facility reconsider and staff replied that it must adhere to Physician orders. Upon a motion by Jan Little, seconded by Janet Shelton, members agreed to open the case. (JDC)

11-050-9014 – the consumer has problems living on a unit occupied by 30 men and four females. This is not a good environment as men take advantage of and are demeaning to the women. States she is not being assisted to move to a less restrictive unit or to attain her goal of discharge. The facility has not helped her contact community agencies that should be helping her prepare for discharge. The staff told her that she had to exhibit three months of perfect behavior before they will consider moving her to another unit. She has attained this (from November until now) and they continue to drag their feet and show no signs of moving her. Staff tell her that she has a long time before she can worry about discharge which does not help her attitude. Staff are more concerned to aggravate her than to provide good treatment. Upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke and seconded by Janet Shelton members voted to accept the case. (McFarland)

11-050-9015 – an individual with a brain injury as a result of an accident cannot get appropriate services. He has court ordered counseling but his counselor threatens to kick him out of counseling because he lies and that could result in him having to go to prison. Consumer says his misinformation is a result of his disability. Upon a motion by Janet Shelton and seconded by Jan Little members voted to accept the case. (Midwest Counseling)

**Other New Business:** None noted.

**Unfinished Business:**

Upon a motion by Jan Little seconded by Janet Shelton, the Authority returned to closed session at 6:50 p.m. pursuant to Section 721 of the Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss case progress and reports of findings.

**A. Case Progress Reports:**

1. 11-050-9006 – McFarland Case Manager – Issues with paperwork. Rights fall short.
2. 11-050-9009 – Hope School – isolation/discharge
3. 11-050-9010 – Blessing Hospital – investigation completed
4. 11-050-9012 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - property

The members discussed the reports of findings and case closures.

**Open session reconvened at 7:50 pm.**

**Draft Reports of Findings:**

1. 10-050-90095 – JDC - Training
2. 11-050-9011 – Andrew McFarland – Mike will add a statement about the changes recommended.

Upon a motion by Jan Little, seconded by Debbie Weiner, members present voted to accept the reports of findings with suggested changes, pending administrative approval and that of at least one more staff member.

**Case Closures:**

1. 10-050-9024 - Western Illinois Access - placement - the HRA has attempted to meet with an administrator of Illinois Department of Human Services who issued an opinion regarding the case. She has not cooperated with requests for face to face meeting at this point. Upon a motion by Janet Shelton, seconded by Jan Little, the members present agreed to table case closure.
2. 10-050-9009 – McFarland – Discharge form - Upon a motion by Janet Shelton and seconded by Jan Little, members voted to close the case.
3. 11-050-9002 - SPARC - 5 parts - Members reviewed the agency's response and, upon a motion by Linda O'Rourke, seconded by Jan Little, members voted to close the case.
4. 11-050-9003 - Andrew McFarland Mental Health Center - NOR - Members reviewed the Center's response to its report of findings. Upon a motion by Jan Little, seconded by Linda O'Rourke, members voted to close the case.

**Announcements and Comments:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011 6:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center. Janet Shelton may be assisting her family and not available for the next meeting.

**Site Visit:** The Coordinator will call to set up a date for visits.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Shelton  
Recording Secretary

